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Morning Papers .. 27th January, 1944.  
Evening Papers .. 27th January, 1944.

RETAIL PRICES - DECEMBER QUARTER, 1943.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for December quarter 1943 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1068, Toowoomba 1083, Rockhampton 1073, Townsville 1113, Bundaberg 1055, and Warwick 1057.

The above figures show the following percentage increases or decreases as compared with the dates shown.

City			December Quarter, 1943 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With		
			Year Ended June, 1939	December Quarter, 1942	September Quarter, 1943
Brisbane	..	..	23.75	1.23	- 0.56
Toowoomba	..	..	27.26	2.56	0.46
Rockhampton	..	..	24.62	2.00	- 0.09
Townsville	..	..	22.04	1.37	- 0.09
Bundaberg	..	..	25.21	1.45	- 0.47
Warwick	..	..	28.59	2.72	- 0.19

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City		Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
		Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr. 1943	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr. 1943	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr. 1943
Brisbane	..	10.98	- 1.86	72.86	- 0.07	19.87	0.53
Toowoomba	..	21.01	3.03	74.43	- 0.07	18.92	0.00
Rockhampton	..	10.39	0.30	74.32	- 0.61	20.58	0.00
Townsville	..	7.64	- 0.29	75.12	- 0.14	19.46	0.59
Bundaberg	..	12.40	- 0.88	72.23	- 0.48	17.15	- 0.09
Warwick	..	13.95	0.10	68.71	- 0.97	21.46	0.00

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for December quarter, 1943 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 914, Toowoomba 934, Rockhampton 900, Townsville 962, Bundaberg 878, and Warwick 871.

From September quarter 1943 to December quarter 1943 this index rose in Toowoomba (1.97%), Rockhampton (0.22%), and Warwick (0.11%) but fell in Brisbane (1.1%), Townsville (0.21%), and Bundaberg (0.57%).

The decreased price of tea and potatoes was effective for the first time over the whole 3 months for which the index is calculated but its effect was offset in Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Warwick by a rise in the price of beef and mutton.

Rents remained stationary in all towns except Bundaberg where there was a rise of 0.30%.

Compared with December quarter 1942 the combined Food and Rent Index decreased by the following percentages - Brisbane 1.72, Townsville 1.64, and Bundaberg 0.23. The Index remained stationary in Rockhampton but rose in Toowoomba (2.64%), and Warwick (1.63%).

The Food and Grocery Index declined in 4 towns but rose in Toowoomba (4.12%) and Warwick (0.94%).

Rents remained stationary in 3 towns but showed the following percentage increases in the other three towns - Rockhampton 0.26, Bundaberg 0.90, and Warwick 2.96.

Compared with the Index for 1938-39 the "B" series index shows the following percentage increases - Brisbane 7.28, Toowoomba 13.76, Rockhampton 7.53, Townsville 5.02, Bundaberg 9.89, and Warwick 13.41.

Rents rose in all towns the percentage increases being Brisbane 1.41, Toowoomba 2.63, Rockhampton 2.26, Townsville 0.58, Bundaberg 4.52, and Warwick 12.31.

Increases were also recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

#### Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in December quarter 1943 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City			All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	..	..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	..	..	1. 0. 3	1. 0. 9	19.11	1. 0. 2
Rockhampton	..	..	1. 0. 1	1. 0.10	17.10	1. 0. 7
Townsville	..	..	1. 0.10	1. 1. 8	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 6
Bundaberg	..	..	19. 9	1. 1. 4	15. 7	1. 0. 2
Warwick	..	..	19.10	1. 0. 4	16.11	1. 0. 0

#### Comparison of Commonwealth and State's Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1068	4.17. 0	4.17. 0a	-	1072	4.17. 8	4.17. 8	-
N.S.W.	1143	5. 3.10	4.19. 0a	4.10	1139	5. 3. 9	4.19. 0	4. 9
Victoria	1128	5. 2. 5	4.17. 0b	5. 5	1125	5. 2. 6	4.16.10	5. 8
South Aust.	1099	4.19.10	4.13. 0a	6.10	1094	4.19. 8	4.13. 0	6. 8
West. Aust.	1100	4.19.11	5. 1. 1a	- 1. 2	1108	5. 0.11	5. 1. 6	- 0. 7
Tasmania	1117	5. 1. 5	4.14. 0b	7. 5	1100	5. 0. 3	4.13. 0	7. 3

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth Basic Wage, applicable from first pay of period of February, 1944. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.



## RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

## THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending Decr. 1943	QUARTERS ENDING				
				Decr. 1942	March 1943	June 1943	Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943
Brisbane .. ..	917	863	1072	1055	1063	1083	1074	1068
Toowoomba .. ..	906	851	1080	1056	1068	1089	1078	1083
Rockhampton .. ..	903	861	1073	1052	1059	1086	1074	1073
Townsville .. ..	1023	912	1114	1098	1103	1124	1114	1113
Bundaberg .. ..	(b)	841	1057	1038	1047	1068	1058	1053
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1075	1057	1066	1086	1076	1072
Warwick .. ..	914	822	1055	1029	1040	1064	1059	1057

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2.

## FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending Decr. 1943	QUARTERS ENDING				
				Decr. 1942	March 1943	June 1943	Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943
Brisbane .. ..	901	852	929	930	934	942	925	914
Toowoomba .. ..	833	821	927	910	923	936	916	934
Rockhampton .. ..	858	837	904	900	901	918	898	900
Townsville .. ..	1047	916	970	978	974	979	964	962
Bundaberg .. ..	(b)	799	888	880	889	902	883	878
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	892	851	928	928	932	941	924	916
Warwick .. ..	841	768	872	857	864	882	870	871

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3.

## AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

## Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF		Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF	
		Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943			Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats - flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	3.68	3.68
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.09	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef - Sirloin			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.00	12.15
Jam (Plum) .. 1½ lb.	8.02	10.51	11.56	Beef - Steak			
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.20	12.19	Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	16.90	17.00
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.41	8.45	Beef - Steak			
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.98	1.95	Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.75	7.85
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.00	7.00	Beef - Rolled			
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.91	Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.65	7.80
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	14.95	15.00	Mutton - leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.40	8.40
Eggs .. 1doz.	19.69	22.00	22.00	Mutton - chops			
				Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	8.45	8.45